**Questions to Ask Yourself as You Look at Art Work**   
Thinking about and writing answers to these questions will help you to describe, and analyze work for yourself

**Formal Analysis – a SHOULD-DO task**

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| **Question** | **How to start your answer** |
| What is the mood of the painting? | In this painting, the mood is ... |
| What is your initial reaction to it? | At first, I think ... |
| How has the artist used the elements of composition, line, texture, space, colour and shape to create this mood, or establish the content of the work? | The artist has used composition to ...  He/She has used line/texture/space/colour/shape to ... |
| How would you describe the line quality? | The line quality is ... |
| How would you describe the brushwork? | The brushwork is ... |
| What is the focal point? | My eyes are immediately drawn to ... |
| How do the elements of composition, draw you into the painting? | The way the artist has arranged the painting draws me in because ... |
| How does the line quality, colour scheme, use of shape, arrangement of space, surface texture add to the understanding of the painting's content? | The line quality/colour scheme/use of shape/arrangement of space/surface texture add to my understanding of the painting because ... |
| Describe the colour harmonies and contrasts in the composition. | The artist has used the following colours together: ... |
| Are warm colours (those colours that are warm in nature, red-yellow-orange) used by the artist? | The warm colours used by the artist create a feeling of ... |
| Are cool colours (those colours that are cool in nature, violet-green-blue) used by the artist? | The cool colours used by the artist create a feeling of ... |
| Is there an overall colour theme or tonality used? |  |
| Has the artist used dramatic light and dark lighting effects, much like stage lighting (chiaroscuro) effects in the painting or work of art? |  |
| Where are you the viewer in relationship to the images in painting? |  |
| Are forms organized on a flat plane or are they set deep into space? |  |
| How does the artist achieve this? |  |
| What objects are low on the compositional plane?  What objects are high? |  |
| What objects or figures are clear and distinct?  What object are blurry? |  |
| Is the composition closed or open? |  |
| Is harmony achieved in the composition through formal, asymmetrical, or intuitive balance devices? |  |
| Are the shapes biomorphic?  geometrical? |  |
| Are the shapes diffused? highly delineated? painterly? |  |
| What are the relationships of the elements of composition to the overall meaning of the work of art? |  |